



## Rena Denise Cooley

December 24, 1962 - April 5, 2023

Rena Denise Cooley (60) nee Hartman went home to meet her Savior Wednesday, April 5, 2023. She was the cherished daughter of Barbara (William) Barnell and Robert Hartman, who preceded her in death. Rena was born in Sturgis, MI on December 24, 1962 and graduated in 1980 from Sturgis Christian School, where she excelled in mathematics and enjoyed playing volleyball on the school team. She met her loving husband, Bruce Cooley, while working at The Chicken Coop Restaurant. They liked to say that Bruce started as Rena's manager, but she soon became his manager when they married a couple years later in 1983.

Bruce and Rena started their family in southern Michigan before moving to central Illinois in 1995. Rena was a devoted mother to her four children. They fondly remember her lasagna and playing croquet on the lawn with her on cool summer evenings. In addition to being a homemaker, Rena worked as a florist at Casey's Garden Shop as well as a clerk at Naturally Yours health food store in Bloomington-Normal, IL.

In the summer of 2014, the Cooleys settled in Crawfordville, FL, where Rena became a dedicated member of River of Life Church. She cherished her personal relationship with God all her life and faithfully sought to reflect God's love and truth in her every word and deed.

Rena loved to draw as a child, and she grew into a talented watercolorist as an adult. Her deep appreciation of God's creation was evident in the beautiful hand-painted cards she shared with family and friends as well as her love of gardening, flower arranging, and nature walks. Rena especially loved to walk the beach with Bruce and her children at Alligator Point along the gulf shore.

Rena is survived by her husband Bruce Cooley, her children Kevin (Elaina) Cooley, Kayla (Taylor) Cooley-Wood, Kyle Cooley, and Karl Cooley, and siblings Brad (Gail) Hartman, Timothy Hartman, Darrel (Cherie) Hartman, Lowell (Kisha) Hartman, and Heather (Patrick) Smith.

Memorial service celebrating her life will be Saturday, April 15th, 2023 starting at 11:00 AM at Family Funeral Home in Harvey Young Chapel. Her family will receive friends starting at 10:00 AM one hour prior to the service. Skip and Trey Young along with Kimberly and Paula are assisting the family.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

APR **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Family Funeral Home-Harvey Young Chapel  
3106 Crawfordville Hwy.  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
paula@familyfhc.com

*The Cooley family will receive friends starting at 10:00 AM prior to the service starting at 11:00 AM.*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Young Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rena Denise Cooley*



Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services - April 11, 2023 at 03:00 PM

MA

*Wow. So nice. Will miss your sweet smile my friend. Sorry for your lose Bruce*

maryann - April 14, 2023 at 04:54 PM

FF

“ *From Steve and Lorraine Wood and Family purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Rena Denise Cooley.*



From Steve and Lorraine Wood and Family - April 13, 2023 at 10:15 PM

PH

“ *Pattick and Heather purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rena Denise Cooley.*



Pattick and Heather - April 13, 2023 at 05:06 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rena Denise Cooley.*



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April 12, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rena Denise Cooley.*



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April 12, 2023 at 12:05 PM



“ *Rena was a super person, and dear friend. I'll never forget her sweet spirit and gentle kindness. Her love for family was so evident as she always shared what each one was doing, and how proud she was of them all. Mothers are precious, and you all had the best Mom ever! I'm so sorry for your loss, may God help us all in our grief. She will be greatly missed! The world is a better place because of Rena; she left a footprint of love I'll never forget.*  
*Childhood Friend Tina (Drust) Schumacher*

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**Tina Schumacher** - April 12, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ 95 files added to the album Life Tributes



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**Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services - April 11, 2023 at 01:22 PM**